

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10274

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

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SUBJECT: ACADEMICIAN SAKAROV'S CARDIAC PROBLEMS

1. ACCORDING U.S. JOURNALIST, YELENA BONNER, WHO WAS FINALLY GRANTED EXIT VISA ON JULY 18 TO ITALY FOR TREATMENT OF SEVERE EYE MALADY, IS QUITE CONCERNED OVER THE CARDIAC CONDITION OF HER HUSBAND, ACADEMICIAN ANDREY SAKHAROV. HE RECEIVES A WEEKLY EKG AND THE SYMPTOMS ARE BAD. SAKHAROV WILL NOT ACCOMPANY HIS WIFE TO ITALY AND SHE IS DOUBTFUL ABOUT LEAVING HIM DESPITE THE FACT SHE IS GOING BLIND.

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT SAKHAROV'S WIFE MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE USSR AFTER COMPLETION OF THE TREATMENT FOR HER EYE PROBLEM. SUCH A TACTIC WOULD PRESUMABLY INCREASE PRESSURES ON SAKHAROV TO PETITION FOR AN EXIT VISA. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET REGIME MAY HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ALLOWING A PHYSICIST WITH SAKHAROV'S BRILLIANT RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO LEAVE THE USSR, THE DAMAGE THAT HIS DEPARTURE WOULD DO TO THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT MIGHT PERSUADE THE REGIME TO LET HIM GO. KNOWING THIS, SAKHAROV IS DETERMINED TO REMAIN IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT ILLNESS MAY FORCE HIM TO CHANGE HIS PLANS.

STOESSEL

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